



# Hello Winter

Sandy Brae Newsletter

Winter 2025

## Welcome to 2025!

It's a new year here in Sandy Brae—the 59th year, to be exact. The HOA is excited to start implementing ways to celebrate our 60th year in 2026. This year, we will be reaching out for ideas, photos, and stories from residents who have been here from the beginning, seasonal residents, and the new folks who just discovered this gem in Lewes. We want to hear your stories. What brought you to Sandy Brae and, more importantly, kept you here over the years?

Over six decades, some of you have witnessed profound transformations in Sandy Brae and this region, evolving from a small, quiet beach town to one that continues to grow leaps and bounds. While the significant developments grow around us, we stand out 60 years later as a beautifully architecturally diverse community of 259 homes, each with its own unique story and charm. We look forward to your ideas on gathering as a community to celebrate this milestone. To be continued ...

Speaking of growth, in 2024, we had (8) houses sold, ranging from \$300,000 to \$565,000. It's nice to know that we still have curb appeal after all these years, which is a testament to the continued maintenance and renovations of the homes in our community. When you beautify your home, we all benefit. Keep up the excellent work!

While we're on the subject of beautifying your home, please remember always to complete an ARC Form before the start of your project. Reach out in advance, and we'll guide you through the process to avoid any interruption to the work. The ARC form and the Sussex County Guidelines can be found on the Sandy Brae website. We encourage residents to take advantage of the website and our knowledge to ensure a smooth transition from start to finish.

The proverb "many hands make light work" means that large tasks become smaller when divided among multiple people. Remember, the door is always open to volunteer your time and talents to the HOA board to ease the load, especially with organizing a 60th Anniversary celebration.

Sincerely,

The SBHOA Board

### Annual HOA Meeting

**WHEN: June 14, 2025 | 10am-Noon | WHERE: Delaware State Police Troop 7 Barracks  
1944 Mulberry Knoll Road**

There is plenty of free parking and accessible parking spaces, the venue can hold 100 people, and most importantly, it is easy to get to.

Cross Plantation Road to Cedar Grove Road, then go straight to Mulberry Knoll Road and make a left. The Barracks is up the road on the right. It takes five minutes. All residents in good standing are invited to attend.

Any questions, please contact us via our Facebook page or our

Website: [www.SandyBraeHOA.com](http://www.SandyBraeHOA.com) | Email: [SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com](mailto:SandyBraeHOA.Lewes.DE@gmail.com)

Martin McDonnell, President | John Kelly, Vice President | Jessica Harrison, Treasurer  
Helena Hannah, Secretary | Lisa George, Director | Nancy Hecker, Honorary Board Emeritus,  
Kathy Davidson, Board Emeritus | Print Coast 2 Coast, Newsletter Designer



### SNOW PLOWING



A private contractor has made arrangements to plow the streets. Unfortunately, snow stakes were not in place before our first huge snowstorm of the New Year. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and initiative in protecting your properties at the last minute. Mother Nature may not be done with us yet, so continue to reach out with your concerns as they arise during future storms, and we'll do our best to answer questions and rectify situations as they arise.

### OPERATION PORCH LIGHT

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We encourage residents to turn on their porch lights for safety. If you have motion or backyard flood lights, please note they need to be turned downward and not outward toward your neighbor's house.

### CONTRACTOR SOLICITORS

Unfortunately, we do not own our roads, so we cannot prevent them from entering our community. Never sign or commit to work being done on your home without investigating the situation further. These days, we all need to be mindful of scams. The most we can do is alert our residents if we are made aware.



### CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

As the weather turns cold, remember to check on your neighbors, especially your elderly friends and neighbors. Also, inform your neighbors if you plan to go away for an extended time this winter.



### HOT DIGGITY DOG

Please continue to pick up after your animals. Do not let your dog run off-leash, bark at night, or leave your pets in the yard for an extended period, especially in cold weather. Be a good owner and a responsible neighbor; respect everyone's property and follow Delaware law regarding leashing your dog. If anyone is concerned about an animal in our community, call Animal Control @ 302-255-4646, and they will come out and investigate your concern.



### BOARD MEETINGS

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Board meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and posted in the Events tab on our website. If you wish to attend, please email us in advance, and we will send you the Zoom link. All past and present documents are also posted on our website under the Document tab, [Sandybraehoa.com](http://Sandybraehoa.com)



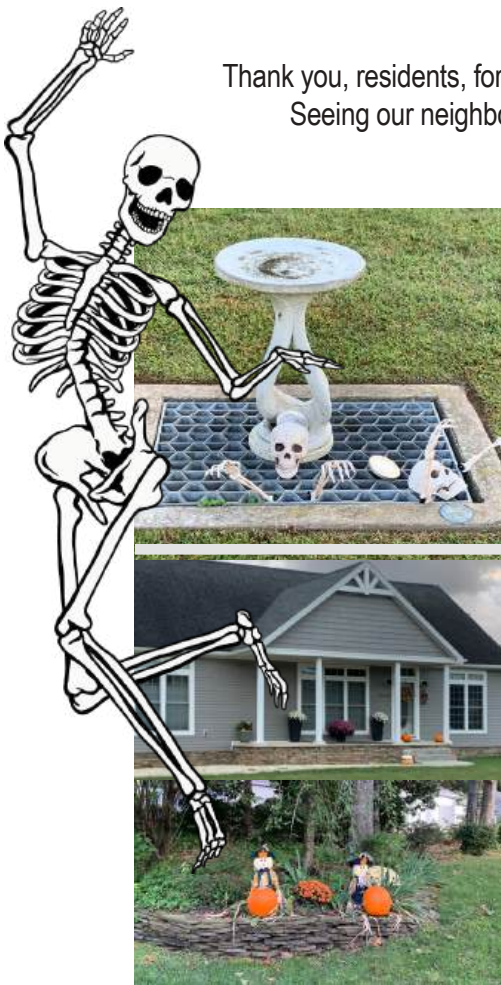
### ENTRANCE SIGNS

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We are looking into Solar Lighting options for our signs at each entrance, which will make entering our community brighter without detracting from the aesthetics of our signs.

### HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

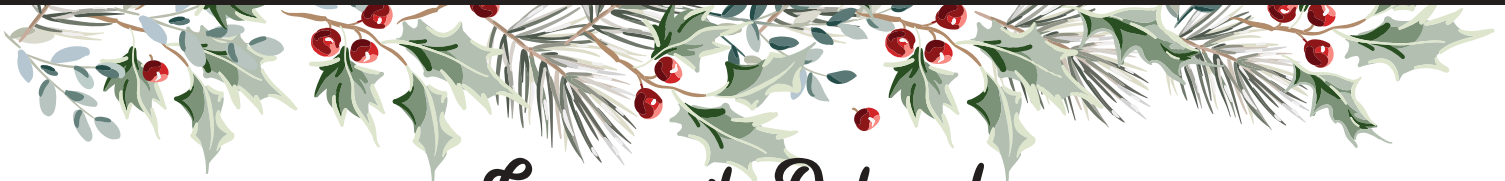
Thank you, residents, for decorating your homes during the holidays and at the change of seasons. Seeing our neighbors' creativity displayed throughout Sandy Brae is always a pleasure!



### YEARLY DUES

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The SBHOA annual dues have been and always will be due on January 1. The Covenants allow residents an additional 30 days, so the last day to pay your dues is January 31. If you are experiencing financial difficulty or have an emergency that prohibits you from paying dues, don't hesitate to contact the Board immediately to work on a plan. Having a plan is cheaper than having fines.



# Community Outreach

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. *Margaret Mead*

## FALL FOOD DRIVE

During the first week of November, Sandy Brae showed up in a big way during our Fall Food Drive. Jessica Harrison and Lisa George collected over 40 bags of food delivered to the Delaware Food Bank Milford Division. Thanks to you, many food-deprived residents in Sussex County will be nourished this season. If you are inspired to volunteer or donate all year round, you can find out how to do so at <https://www.fbd.org/about>.



## SANTA CAME TO SANDY BRAE

It was the week before Christmas, and all through Sandy Brae, Santa Claus made his way to the corner of Dogwood and Linden to spread some cheer to the kiddies and their parents who braved the cold, rainy evening of December 20th.

Thank you, Lewes Fire Co., for making the holidays brighter for our residents.



## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



As most of you know, our neighbor, Nicholas "Nick" Panco, a Juniper Drive resident, lost not only his home but everything other than the clothes on his back in a house fire on November 11th. The surrounding neighbors are grateful for the overnight rain that fell. This tragedy could have been much worse without the help of Mother Nature.

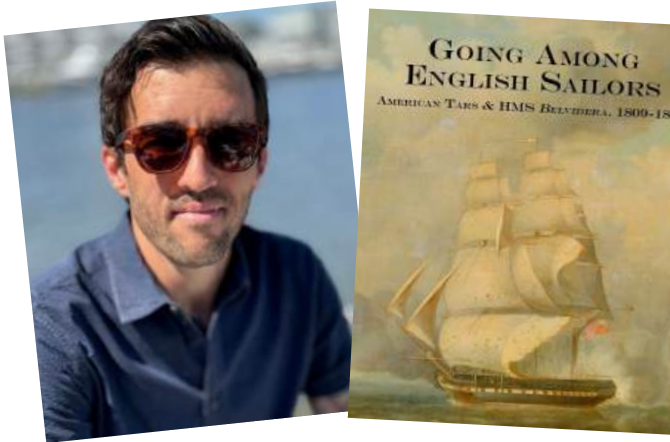
In his attempt to extinguish the fire, he suffered some burns to his arm, leg, and stomach areas. Thankfully, he is recovering nicely. The Sandy Brae community assisted him while getting back on his feet, dropping off clothes, shoes, gift cards, and supplies for his trusted four-legged friend Huxley while waiting for the wheels of the insurance company to get started.

Nick is a proud Marine veteran who would like to express his gratitude for the support he has received during this difficult time. While displaced, he has been staying at the Hyatt House at Five Points, which has had challenges. However, it has also allowed him to put some, just a speck, of that pride aside to accept the help of his neighbors.

"Thank you to my Sandy Brae neighbors for all of the kindness, good wishes, and love after my recent house fire and resulting confusion. I thank God for sparing my loving dog, Huxley, and me. We are truly blessed. Best wishes for continued health and happiness to you all!"

Sincerely,  
NICK & HUXLEY





## ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET



Sandy Brae is home to many residents with unique talents that often go unnoticed. This month, **we spotlight Andrew J. Lyter**, a man of many hats. As the Executive Director and Curator of the Lewes Historical Society, he is a naval historian, a passionate sailor, and a skilled bagpiper. But his talents don't stop there. He is also a dedicated scholar, and his contributions have graced the pages of Lewes History, the Journal of the Lewes Historical Society, and the Journal of the American Revolution.

When he's not wearing the attire of a sailor, captain, or tradesman on the Lewes Historical Society Campus, you will find Andrew in his most vital roles as a loving husband and a devoted father, often seen taking leisurely walks with his family or pounding the pavements of Sandy Brae as an enthusiastic runner.

Andrew ended 2024 by setting a new milestone and publishing his first book, *Going Among English Sailors: American Tars Aboard HMS Belvidera, 1809-1814*, which was launched at the First Friday event in November at the Lewistown Coffeehouse on the Historic Lewes Town Campus. I enjoyed attending this event, waited in line to get a signed copy of his book, chatted with Andrew, and sampled a libation crafted for the occasion, the "Chocolate Cherry Bombardment." The Lewes Historical Society knows how to throw an event! The campus was packed with visitors from all over, along with many locals who had the extra pleasure of meeting Andrew and talking with him about his passion.

I'll admit this is not a book I would reach for; however, I'm delighted I did. Andrew's passion comes through as he tells the story of the British bombardment of Lewes during the War of 1812. I'm not surprised since he lived the experience. No, he's not a time traveler, but while he was a graduate student at the University of Portsmouth, he did spend a summer aboard the British brigantine Lord Nelson, sailing around the United Kingdom as the only American crew member. Needless to say, this experience ignited something special that thankfully led to this book.

*Again, the book's title is **Going Among English Sailors: American Tars Aboard HMS Belvidera, 1809-1814**. Visit the Lewes Historical Society Campus or website at <https://www.historiclewes.org/publications/> to get your copy.*

## SPRING YARD SALE

Friday, 16th and Saturday, May 17th, 8:00am - 1pm | Rain or Shine





## LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

In light of the recent fire in our community, we wanted to provide some helpful fire safety tips. A charging lithium battery was determined to have caused the fire on Juniper Dr. The battery was charging on the charger when the fire started. Today, lithium batteries are used for many things around our homes, from scooters to power tools to cars and many other things. The Lewes Fire Department provided the following information on their website regarding this fire. You can access a video on their website at [www.lewesfire.com](http://www.lewesfire.com)

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many devices, including smartphones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. However, lithium-ion batteries can catch fire or explode if not used correctly or damaged.

- Purchase batteries only listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory and labeled accordingly.
- Stop charging a battery once it is complete.
- Use charging equipment that is compatible with your device. To be safe, use only the charging equipment supplied with your device.
- Have all repairs performed by a qualified professional.

Stop using the battery if you notice an odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If safe, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Then, call 9-1-1.

### How should lithium batteries be disposed of?

Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take batteries to a battery recycling location or contact your community for instructions.

### How do fires from lithium-ion batteries start?

Lithium-ion battery fires can occur for various reasons, such as physical damage (e.g., the battery is penetrated or crushed or exposed to water), electrical damage (e.g., overcharging or using charging equipment not designed for the battery), exposure to extreme temperatures, and product defects.

### Where is the safest place to charge batteries in e-bikes and electric vehicles?

The safest place to charge e-bikes, e-scooters, and electric vehicles is outdoors, away from any structure or enclosure, and not in direct sunlight. Do not charge a battery when the charger or the battery is damaged. Do not store batteries in extremely hot or cold locations or in an area that blocks the only exit out of a room. Do not attempt to modify the battery or charger.



**GOLDEN RULE IN THE  
EVENT OF A FIRE:  
GET OUT | STAY OUT | CALL 911**



# Want To Beat The Winter Blues?

## Winter Activities for All Ages

We are fortunate to live in an area with art, entertainment, and delicious dining (with off-season prices) to keep us busy during winter's longer, darker days. However, not everyone can get out on their own. Many of our residents live alone or have limited driving abilities, so consider inviting a neighbor along for company. As they say, the more the merrier.

The Milton Theater – Music, comedy, and The Jersey Boys take over January and February.

**Check out their list of shows at [www.miltontheatre.com](http://www.miltontheatre.com).**

The Clear Space Theatre—Three great productions will be featured through January, February, and March: Dial M for Murder, Everybody's Talking About Jamie and Oklahoma. Check out the 2025 season at [www.clearspacetheatre.org](http://www.clearspacetheatre.org).

**The Midway Movie Theatre offers \$7.00 tickets every Tuesday. All seats All day.**

Cinema Arts Theatre offers independent films and alternative programs such as the Met Opera, exhibitions, and live theatres captured on film. [www.rehobothfilm.com](http://www.rehobothfilm.com).

The Lewes Public Library offers many different opportunities to gather, learn, or just read in a change of scenery. It is fun for adults and children. **A list of activities can be found at <https://lewes.lib.de.us>.**

The Lewes Senior Center offers many activities, trips, classes, and more to fill your day. Located at 32083 Janice Rd. Lewes, DE. 302-645-9293. [www.lewesseniorcenter.org](http://www.lewesseniorcenter.org).

### TOUR YOUR TOWN AND LEARN A THING OR TWO BY VISITING OUR MANY LOCAL MUSEUMS

Rehoboth Beach Museum – [www.rehobothbeachmuseum.org](http://www.rehobothbeachmuseum.org) | Lewes Historical Society – [www.historiclewes.org](http://www.historiclewes.org).

Fort Miles Museum - [www.fortmilesmuseum.org](http://www.fortmilesmuseum.org) | The Zwaanendael Museum – [www.history.delaware.gov/Zwaanendael-museum](http://www.history.delaware.gov/Zwaanendael-museum).

Lewes Chamber of Commerce – [www.leweschamber.com](http://www.leweschamber.com) | Indian River Life Saving Station Museum at Delaware Seashore State Park – [www.delawarestateparks.com](http://www.delawarestateparks.com).

Rehoboth Art League – [www.rehobothartleague.org/events/cottage-tour](http://www.rehobothartleague.org/events/cottage-tour) | Anna Hazzard Museum – 7 Christian Street, Rehoboth Beach, Nanticoke Indian Museum – [www.nanticokeindians.org](http://www.nanticokeindians.org).

**Off-Season Food Specials – [www.visitrehoboth.com/images/Seasonal\\_Specials\\_2024-2025-2](http://www.visitrehoboth.com/images/Seasonal_Specials_2024-2025-2)**

**If you don't see your favorite establishment on the list, give them a call or check their website for more information.**

### ADULT & KID FREEBIES

Take a day trip to a neighboring town. Milton, Cambridge, and Berlin are lovely alternatives. Walk the beach, boardwalk, or trails.

If you are not a walker, that's no problem; plenty of benches are available for people-watching all over the area.

The playground and trail at George H.P. Smith Park in Lewes and the Gordons Pond Trail in Rehoboth, with their wildlife, outlooks, bridge, and natural beauty, will keep everyone busy for hours.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### JANUARY

20th Martin Luther King Day – Federal Holiday  
 22nd National Answer You Cat's Question Day  
 29th National Puzzle Day  
 31st Fire & Ice Festival – Bethany

### FEBRUARY

2nd Groundhog Day  
 2nd Lewes Polar Plunge 1pm Rehoboth Beach  
 10th HOA Board Meeting 5:30pm  
 14th Valentine's Day  
 15TH Hot Chocolate Festival Cape Henlopen HS  
 10:00am - 3pm  
 17th Presidents Day – Federal Holiday

### MARCH

8th Health, Fitness & Leisure Expo  
 9am – 4pm Cape Henlopen HS  
 9th Daylight Savings – Spring Back  
 10th HOA Board Meeting 5:30pm  
 15th Ocean City St. Patrick's Day Parade  
 17th St. Patty's Day  
 20th First Day of SPRING

### APRIL

5th -6th Home Expo @ Cape Henlopen HS  
 12th -18th Lewes Tulip Festival  
 12th Passover Begins at Sundown  
 14th HOA Board Meeting 5:30 pm  
 20th Easter

**\*Board meetings are open to all residents in good standing and are held via Zoom on the second Monday of each month. Residents are encouraged to send in topics or questions for discussion. Always check the website or our FaceBook page for meeting dates, times, or location changes.**



## Slow Down, Take A Cue From Nature

“Nature never hurries, and yet everything is accomplished.”  
*Chinese philosopher Lau Tzu*

After months of activity and stress, winter blesses us with the gift of a quieter time for rest and recovery—if we are open to receiving it. Here in the U.S., we view January as a time for making big resolutions and setting goals for the year; in other words, more stress. Research shows that most goals are not fulfilled. Actually, only 9% make it to the finish line, and I, for one, am not one of them. Recently, I came across an article that said the Danes, the Dutch, and the Japanese use this season to go within and focus on their inner well-being. How refreshing does that sound? So, instead of jumping on the newest diet trend or discounted gym membership, use this time to welcome the quiet.

Winter lets us settle the dust, especially after a year of a heated election, followed by holiday activities that kept us on the go, go, go. The Winter months allow us to turn off the noise and use this time to embrace the slower pace of life for our health and well-being.

It's easy to view winter as a dreary, sad, cold, and dark season, but there is a bright side. The sun is closer to the earth, providing light, warmth, comfort, and growth. No, I'm not talking about your waistline. Don't get me wrong, winter can look bleak, but those bare trees and shrubs are doing what we should all do. They are shifting their focus from their outer being to their inner being. They are returning their energy into the warmth of the soil, where their roots can rejuvenate, renewing themselves for a new season of productivity. They appear runway-ready in the Spring, stunning us with their green leaves and colorful blooms. Doesn't that sound wonderful? This would be a good time to take a cue from nature. Let's face it: it's much wiser than we are.

Did you know that Lewes, DE, received the most snow in recent years on January 26, 1987, when 15 inches fell in the area?



By: *Lisa George, Editor*

